Indo-France Trade Agreement

2382. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and France have discussed the delicate issue of market access and agreed for periodical bilateral consultation to dismantle trade barriers;

(b) if so, whether any discussion between the two countries in this regard was held;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any agreement in this regard has been reached; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDDY): (a) to (e) The 11th Session of the Indo-French Joint Committee was held in New Delhi on 5th December, 2001. According to the Joint Statement issued at the end of the meeting, the two sides, *inter alia,* discussed the issue of market access and agreed for periodical bilateral consultation to dismantle trade barriers. They also held discussions on ways and means of stepping up bilateral cooperation in sectors such as mineral exploration and development, agriculture, energy, information technology, telecommunications, urban development, bio-technology, financial cooperation, etc.

New EXIM policy

2383. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry had decided to launch a masssive programme to achieve one per cent share of the global trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether the new EXIM policy of Government reflects this decision and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether important sectoral demands from various export promotion units have been accommodated to make the new programme successful and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) Yes sir, the Department of Commerce has, in line with the mission of the Medium Term Export Strategy, fixed goal of capturing 1% of the global share of trade by 2007. This is proposed to be achieved through various initiatives including those outlined in the new EXIM Policy. The EXIM Policy 2002-07 has initiated certain measures such as recognising towns of export excellence; removal of all exports restrictions barring a few sensitive items; transforming specified rural regions as regional rural motors through the concept of the Agricultural Export Zones; permitting facilities such as overseas banking units, hedging of commodity risks and external commercial borrowings in the Special Economic Zones; introduction of transparent and simple procedure for the export promotion schemes, and special dispensation to status holders. These measures in the EXIM Policy coupled with the diversification of exports markets through region specific measures such as Focus LAC (Latin American Countries), Focus Africa and Focus CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States); emphasis on the exports of 106 high export potential items identified in the Medium Term Export Strategy; market access initiative and approval of funds for the Assistance to States for Infrastructural Development of Exports (ASIDE) are expected to help the country in achieving the target of 1% of global share of trade by 2007.

(d) The sectoral demands of the export promotion units that have been acceded to in the EXIM Policy are the grant of transport subsidy for the export of fruits, vegetables, floriculture, poultry and dairy products; relaxation in the Export House status on achieving an average of Rs. 5 crore export and waiver of the need for maintenance of average export obligation under the EPCG Scheme in the case of the cottage, handicrafts and small scale sector; liberal norms for the units in the Electronic Hardware Technology Parks; widening of the

duty free import facility for the leather sector; permitting sample fabrics within the duty free entitlement and incorporating additional items under the norms for the textiles sector; reduction of value addition norms and permitting personal carriage of jewellery through Hyderabad and Jaipur airports under the gems and jewellery sector; DEPB rates for pesticide formulations, special DEPB rates for agro products and processed agro products exported in packages of 1 kg or less, reimbursement of 50% of registration fees for drugs under the Chemicals sector and a general transport subsidy to the North Eastern States, Sikkim and Jammu & Kashmir.

Clearance of FDI Proposals

2384. SHRI RUMANDALA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared fifteen FDI proposals;

(b) if so, the quantum of money involved in these FDI proposals; and

(c) the projects on which these foreign investments have been accepted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government have approved fifteen FIPB proposals involving FDI amounting to Rs.11.27 crore in the FIPB meeting held on 7.2.2002. Brief particulars are at Statement.

Statement

List of 15 cases approved in FIPB meeting held on 7.2.2002

1. Simithers-Oasis (India) Pvt. Ltd.
   Activity-Outsourcing of manufacture of foams, growing media and greenstuff industrial absorvents from third parties.

2. DBK India Technologies Pvt. Ltd.
   Activitiy—Electronic appliances for mosquito killers and air freshners.